

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Linkages with Existing Partnerships

Thoughts & Considerations from a Joint Venture Perspective

Appalachian Mountains SHC Workshop
January, 2010

LCC's . . .

. . . Coming to the Head Region! * near you!

LCCs are being proposed and developed in every FWS Region. This has led many FWS employees and partners to speculate on the relationship between LCCs, and JVs & other existing partnerships.

Are these complementary or duplicative structures?

Will JVs be asked or expected to assume the role of LCCs?

Will the new science and planning capacity of LCCs supplant the existing and future role of JVs in biological planning and conservation design?

Will non-FWS partners be asked to participate and contribute to LCCs as they have for JVs?

not guaranteed against defects in materials and workmanship

not recommended for children under the age of 12

if you can read this you're trying too hard

blah blah blah blah

- Characteristics

 - Scale

 - Partners

 - Organization & Structure

- Core Capacities

 - Functions & Responsibilities



- Capacity needs

 - Technical

 - Operational



- Characteristics

 - ✓ Scale

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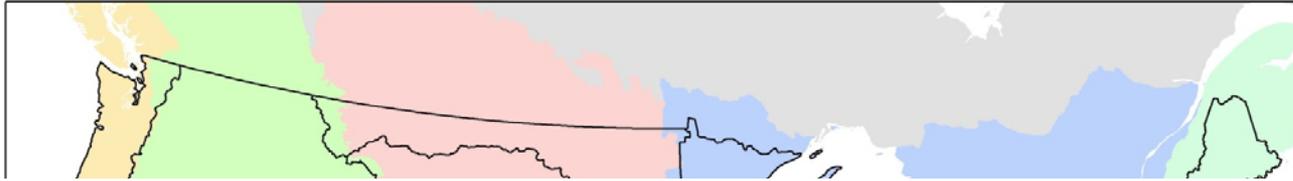


- Capacity needs

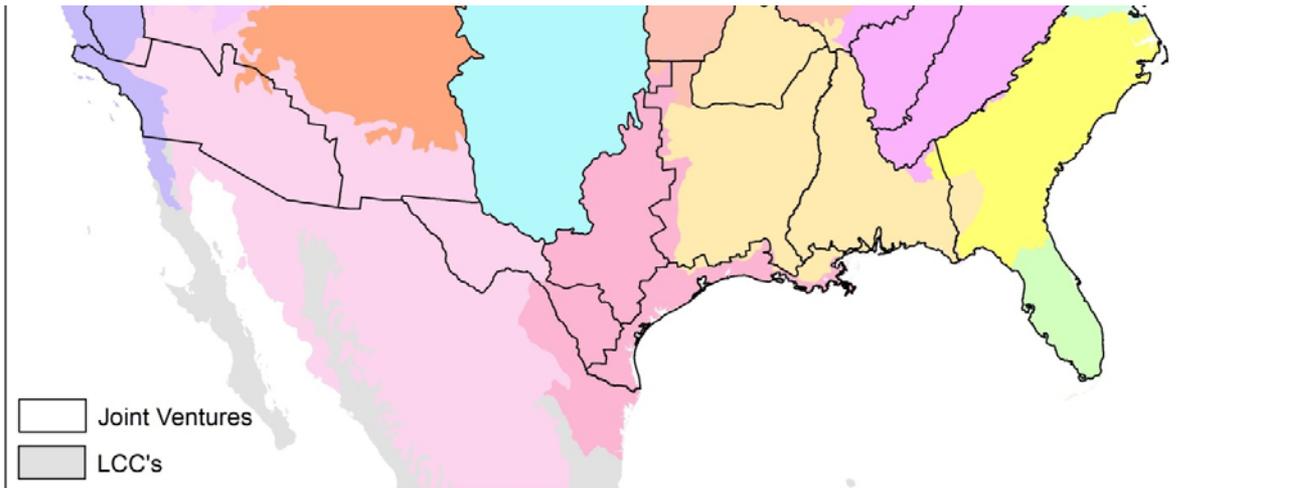
 - Technical

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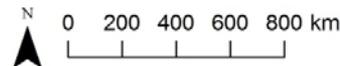




Fairly close correspondence between LCC geographies and JV operational areas should promote "integration and collaboration" of these partnerships' efforts . . . this may not be true for large landscape level partnerships, but smaller scale partnerships can be readily encompassed



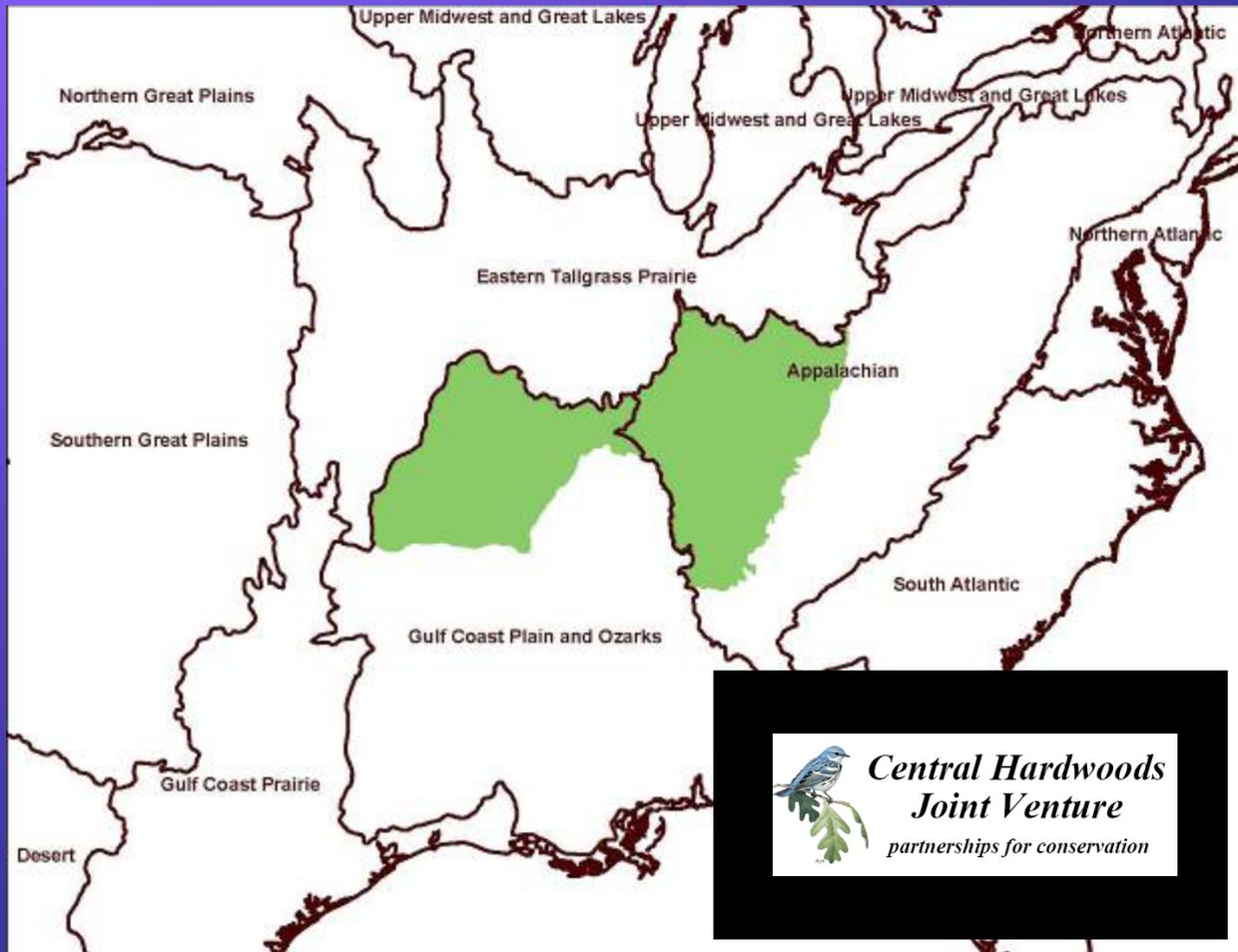
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and Joint Ventures



Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
Laurel, MD 20708
October 2009



Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Area



Overlap of the Central Hardwoods BCR with LCC boundaries.

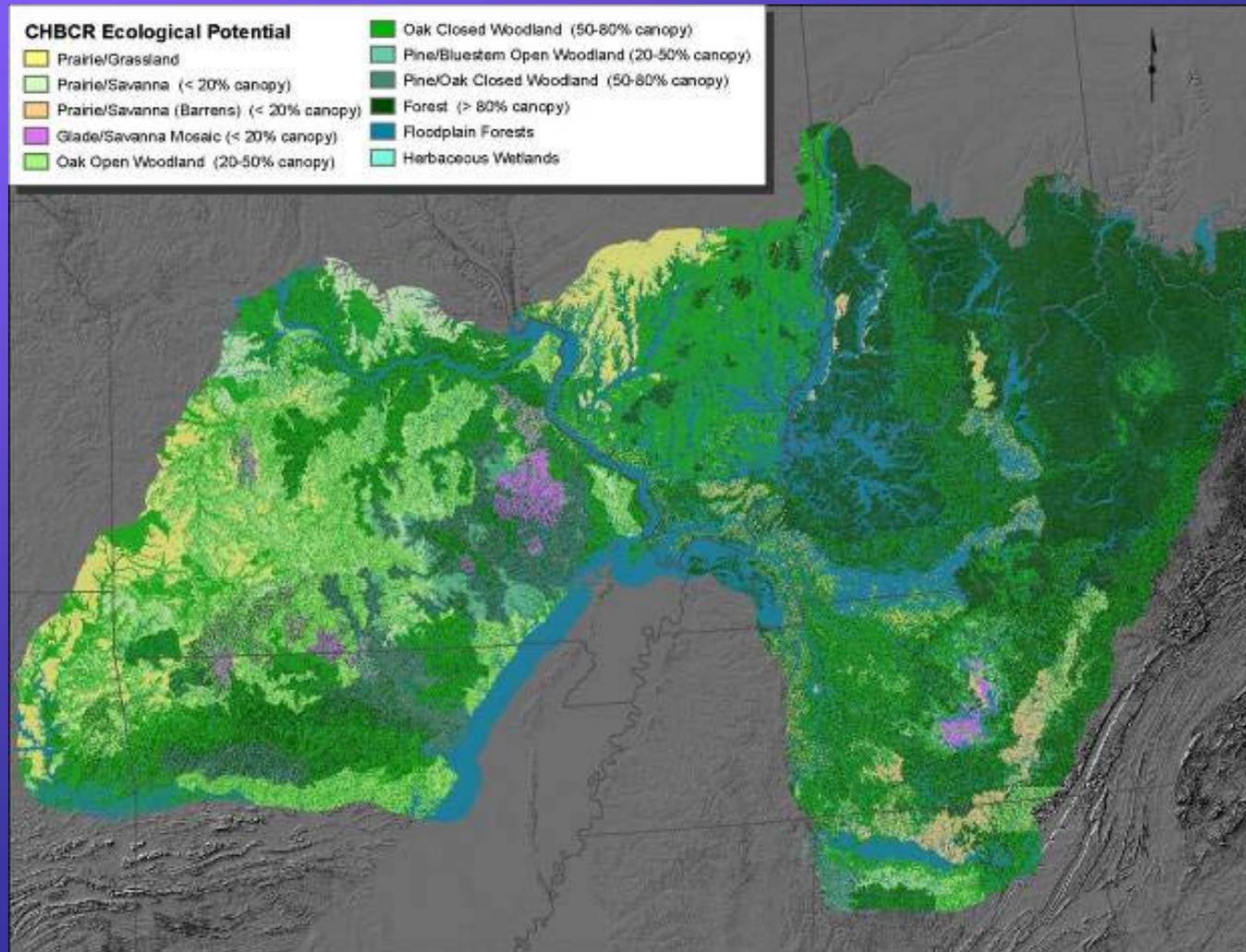


There was concern expressed that if the bird conservation Joint Ventures were to eventually be melded into the LCC framework, the existing CHJV partnership

-- which already has developed a solid science-based foundation for biological planning, conservation design, habitat delivery, and monitoring and evaluation --

. . . could be negatively affected.

Natural Ecological Communities of the Central Hardwoods



U.S. Karst Map

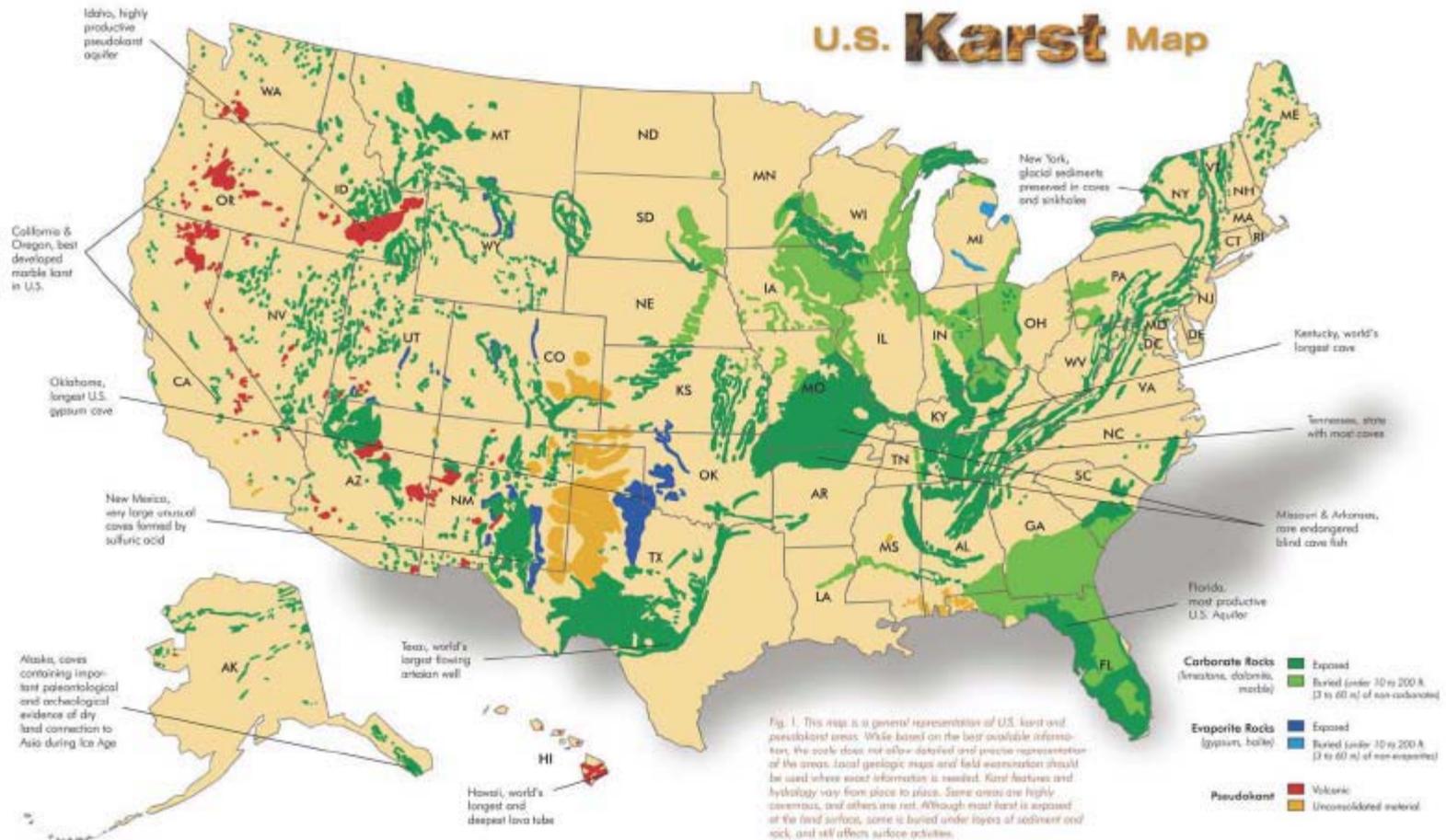


Fig. 1. This map is a general representation of U.S. karst and pseudokarst areas. While based on the best available information, the map does not allow detailed and precise representation of the areas. Local geologic maps and field examination should be used where exact information is needed. Karst features and hydrology vary from place to place. Some areas are highly cavernous, and others are not. Although most karst is exposed at the land surface, some is buried under layers of sediment and rock, and still affects surface activities.

- Characteristics

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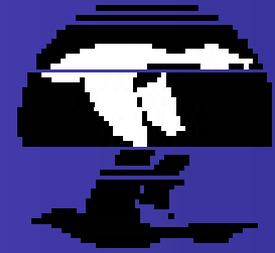
Why partnerships?

Any one entity can "do" conservation . . .
. . . but a partnership:

- promotes efficiency & uniformity of effort by coordinating & leveraging dispersed resources towards common objectives
- more effectively treats ecological and logistical complexities associated with conserving populations at landscape scales
- capitalizes on the complementary strengths of partners
- improves visibility & lends credibility to efforts
- fosters communication, cooperation & sharing of information that improves the overall effort



Joint Ventures as Model Partnerships



Originated as mechanism for implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)

Comprised of traditional and non-traditional partners representing federal & state government agencies, non-governmental organizations & industry

Regionally-based, biologically driven, landscape oriented approach to conservation

Strive to integrate or reconcile needs of diverse groups of birds (e.g., landbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl) and sustain ecosystem structure & function

Infrastructures built around needs for leadership, scientific expertise, planning & implementation, evaluation, monitoring, public relations, etc.

Widely recognized as extremely successful (leveraging resources, delivering conservation, promoting coordination, advancing science, shaping paradigms)

Joint Ventures as Model Partnerships



Guiding Principles

Fundamental units of planning and science capacity that will facilitate strategic on-the-ground conservation at landscape scales through a partnership approach.

The principal function will be to provide scientific and technical expertise to produce landscape-scale conservation designs.

A secondary function will be building interdependent partnerships to develop shared conservation goals and satisfy shared science needs.

States will be essential partners, along with other federal agencies, tribes, and private organizations.

Will provide the principal scientific and technical support for applying SHC approaches to trust resource (and other) conservation

Each will be part of a seamless national network supporting geographically defined landscapes capable of sustaining abundant, diverse and healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

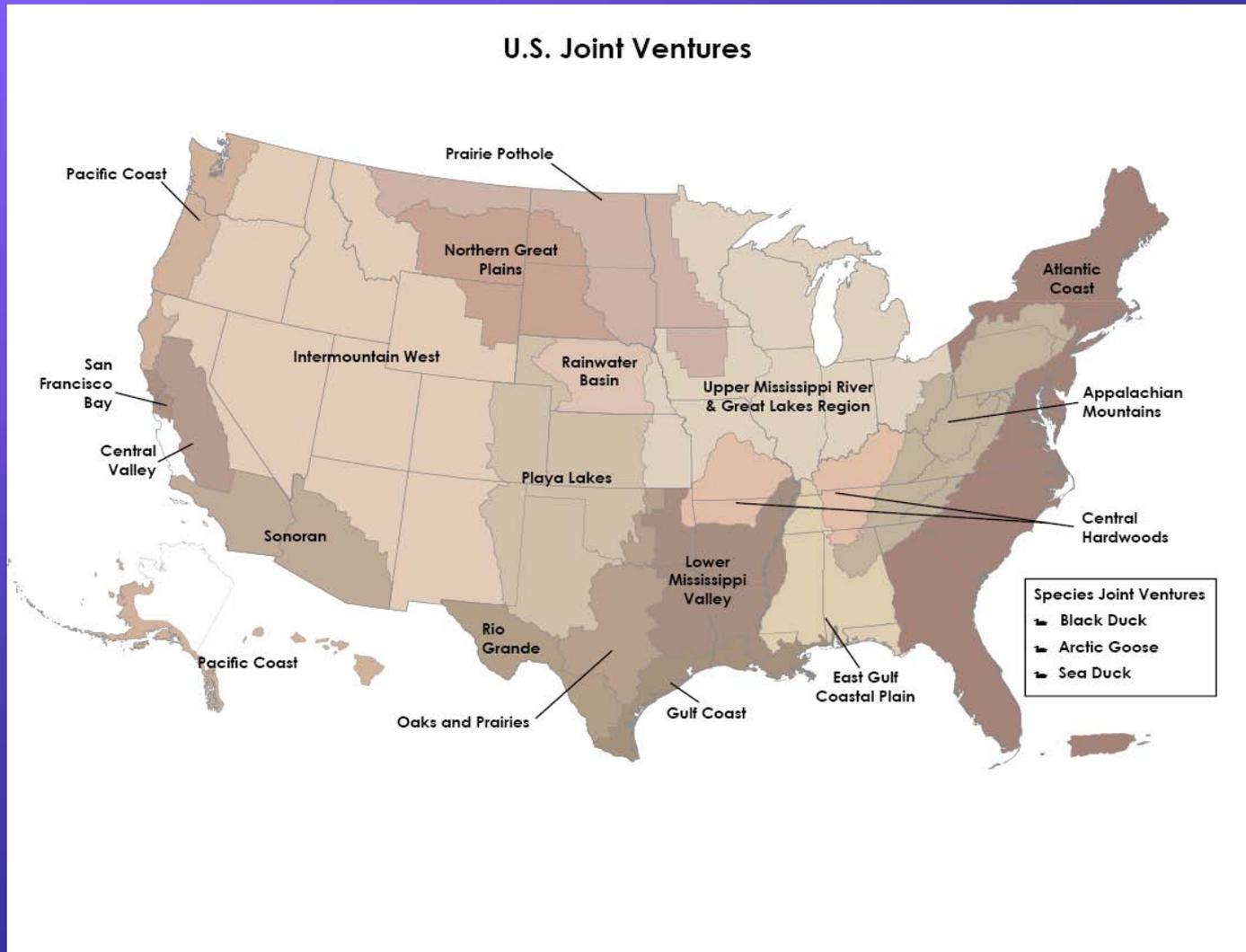
A seamless network of **conservation science partnerships** that provide science and technical support including:

- Biological planning
- Conservation Design
- Monitoring and Research



to **conservation delivery programs and partnerships** to meet common goals for sustaining fish, wildlife and plants

JVs . . . A "Seamless" Network of Conservation Partnerships



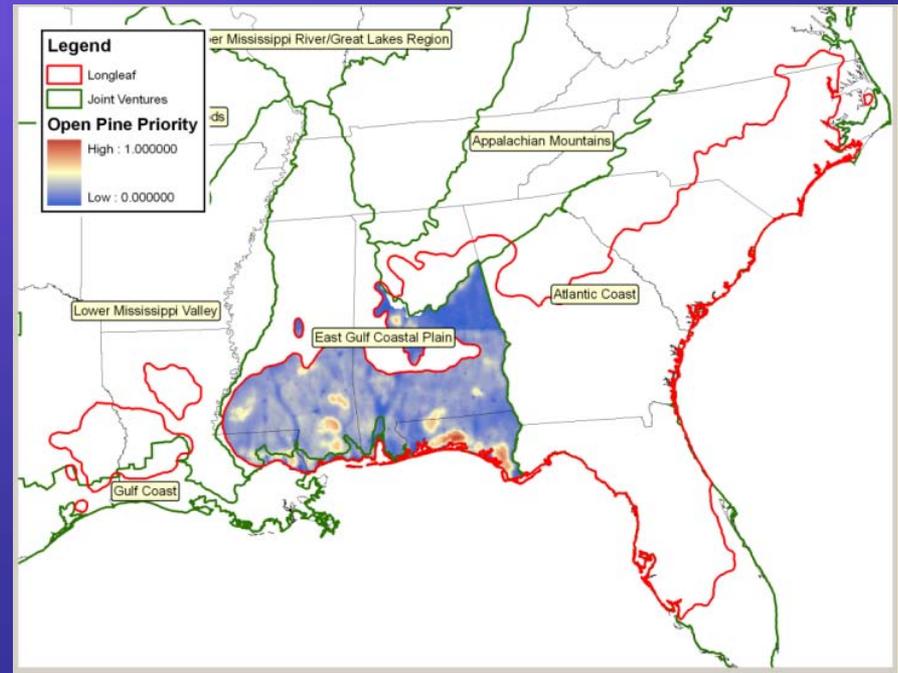
"Seamless" schleamless . . . who cares?

A NETWORK of relationships among JVs represents a key foundation for achieving the vision of LCCs. Such a NETWORK allows a community of partnerships to address priority conservation concerns that demand very large scale consideration and attention.

"Seamless" schmeemless . . . who cares?

A NETWORK of relationships among JVs represents a key foundation for achieving the vision of LCCs. Such a NETWORK allows a community of partnerships to address priority conservation concerns that demand very large scale consideration and attention.

- Longleaf range much greater than the EGCP JV boundary
 - Once covered nearly 90 M ac
- Longleaf restoration is high priority
- JVs cover the entire range
 - Atlantic Coast
 - Lower Mississippi Valley
 - East Gulf Coastal Plain
 - Gulf Coast
 - Appalachian Mountain
- Wildlife species of concern
 - Eastern indigo snake
 - Black pine snake
 - Gopher tortoise
 - Bachman's Sparrow
 - Brown-headed Nuthatch
 - Red-cockaded Woodpecker



Form - Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Self-directed partnerships between federal and state agencies, tribes, NGOs, universities and others

- Build on existing partnerships

Guided by a steering committee with representatives of partner organizations

- Provide management direction and priorities

Conservation Coordination and Delivery

- Providing the structure, information and resources to those funding and implementing habitat conservation at a variety of scales to achieve bird conservation goals.

- JV/
Flyway/
Atl. Coast {
 - Management Board
 - Game Bird Technical Committee
 - Nongame Bird Technical Committee
 - Integrated Bird Steering Committee and subcommittees
- Regional {
 - BCR Working Groups
 - Estuary Working Groups
 - State and Focus Area Working Groups
- Local {
 - Agencies/Organizations
 - Land Managers
 - Private Landowners

"Infrastructure" - Data Mgt example

South Atlantic Migratory Shorebird Data - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media

Address <http://samigbird.fws.gov/sasindex.html> Go

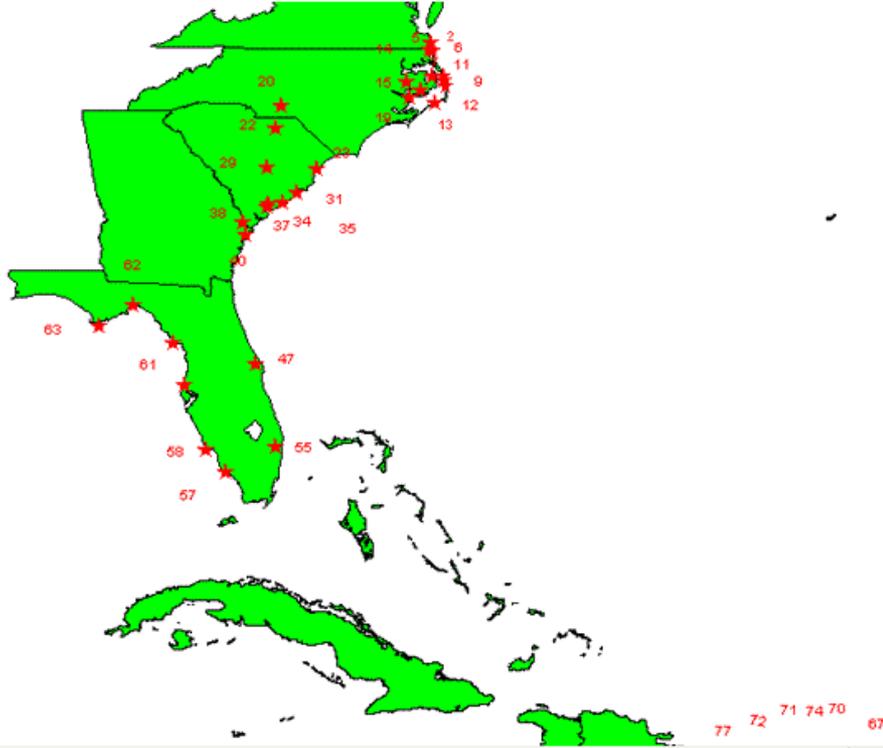
Links SAMBI-Public SAMBI DATA ENTRY Main SII page

South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

Shorebird Bird Data Page

Shorebird Data Viewing Section

- [ACE Basin NWR \(34\)](#)
- [Alligator River NWR \(7\)](#)
- [Back Bay NWR \(2\)](#)
- [Bear Island WMA \(35\)](#)
- [Cape Hatteras National Seashore - Bodie Island \(11\)](#)
- [Cape Hatteras National Seashore - Hatteras Island \(12\)](#)
- [Cape Hatteras National Seashore - Ocracoke Island \(13\)](#)
- [Cape Romain NWR \(31\)](#)
- [Carolina Sandhills NWR \(22\)](#)
- [Cedar Keys NWR \(61\)](#)
- [Culebra Island \(76\)](#)
- [Currituck NWR \(6\)](#)
- [Dine Darling NWR \(58\)](#)



The map displays the South Atlantic coastline from Florida down to the Caribbean. Red stars with numbers are placed at various locations along the coast, representing data points for shorebirds. The numbers range from 2 to 83, with some locations having multiple numbers. The map is overlaid on a green-shaded area representing the study region.

Done Internet

start Bob Noffsinger - Inbo... Microsoft PowerPoint ... South Atlantic Migrat... 1:11 PM

Relationship of LCCs to Existing JVs and other Partnerships

- LCCs will build on existing partnerships
- LCCs partly modeled after JVs
- National geographic framework generally follows Bird Conservation Regions/JVs
- Discussions underway in all JVs about role in LCCs
- Each JV needs to evaluate appropriate level of involvement
- LCCs need to support all taxonomic groups and all relevant programs & partnerships

Options for partnerships to evaluate

Do not actively collaborate with LCCs

**Lead / co-lead establishment of LCCs
in relevant geographies**

**Split or aggregate partnerships to better
align with LCC geographies
LCC boundaries**

**Actively collaborate in development and/or
science efforts of LCCs**

Take Home - "Linkages" wrt Characteristics

Scale Partners Organization & Structure

Geography

degree of correspondence in operational "boundaries"
can have an influence on . . .

Partner involvement

Bio/Eco foundation for technical activities

Leveraging of existing capacities

Potential viability / effectiveness



Take Home - "Linkages" wrt Characteristics

Scale Partners Organization & Structure

Partnerships

require a lot of investment to gain buy-in and become functional . . .

Promote viability of existing partnerships

Clarify roles / relationships in LCC context

Utilize existing networks

Recognize their "independent worth"



- Characteristics

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 - ✓ Functions & Responsibilities



- Capacity needs

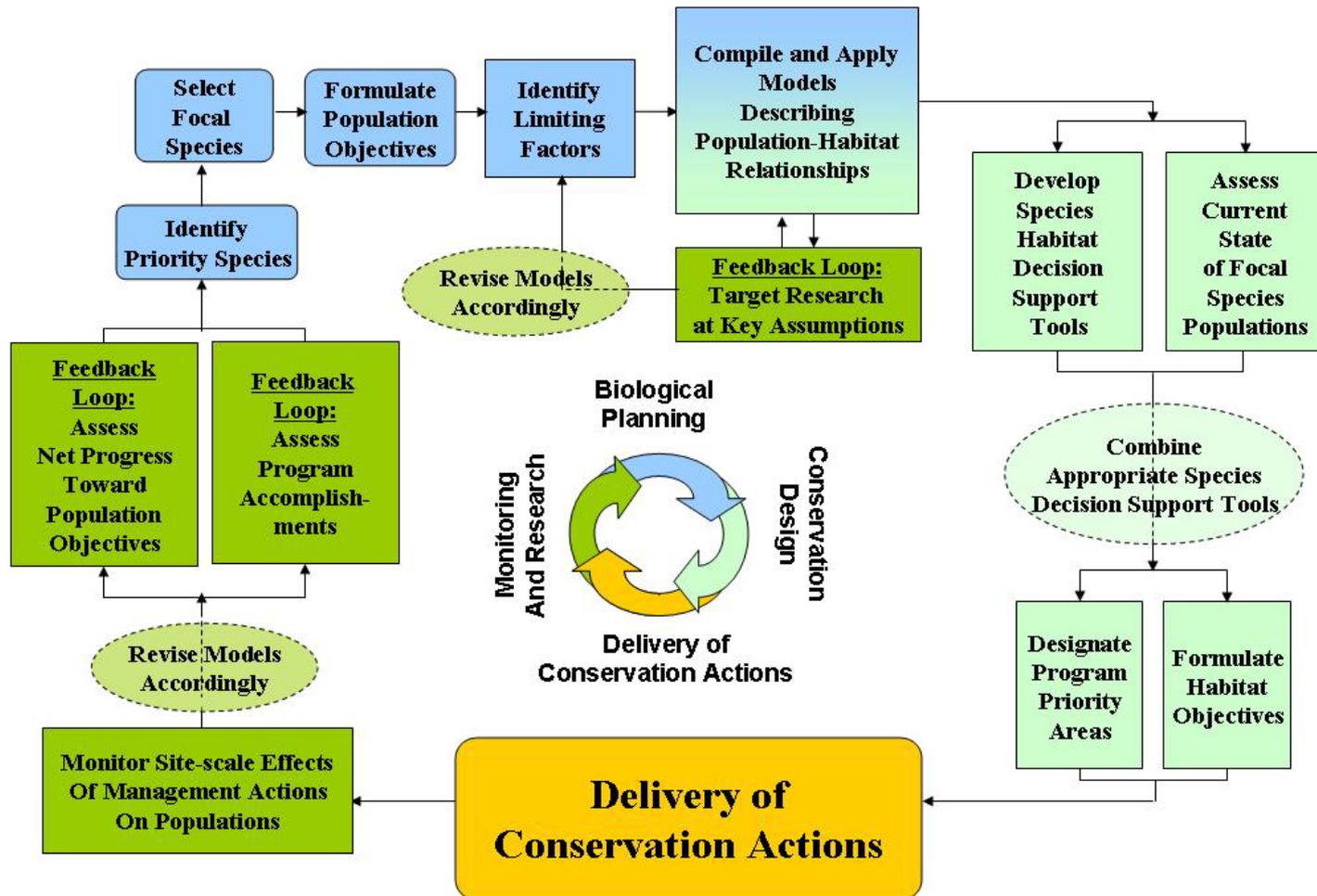
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What JVs Do . . .

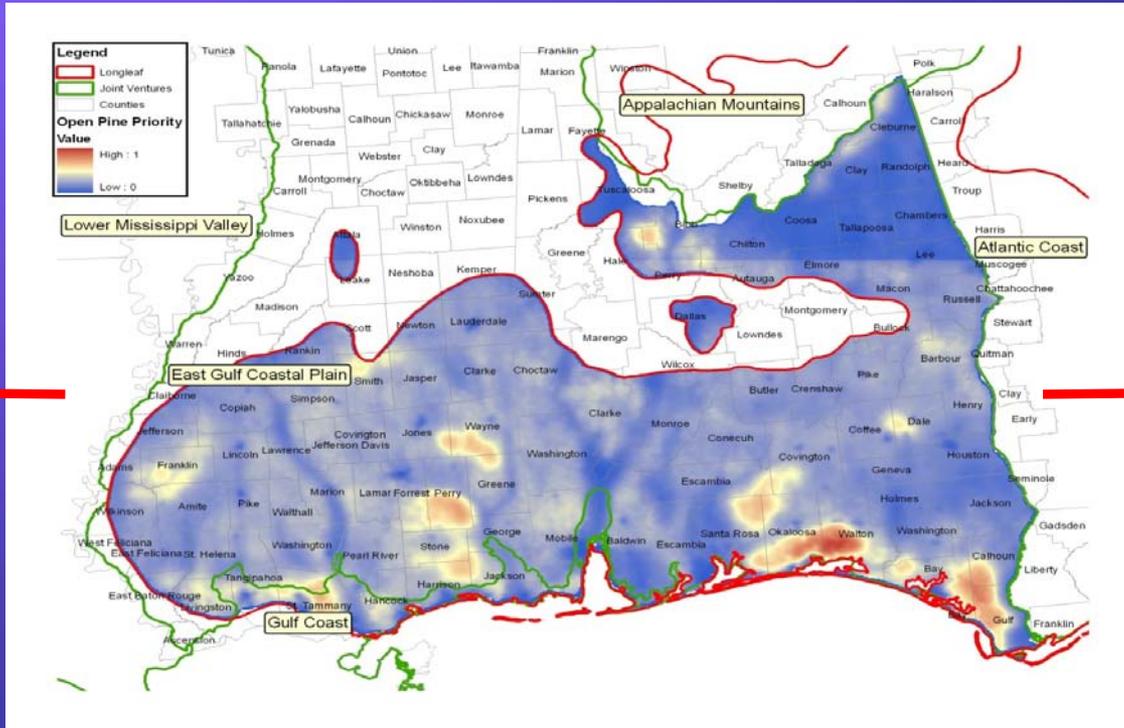
Within an Ecoregion



Decision Support Tools that help drive habitat conservation decisions

State Private Lands Programs

NRCS Programs



Longleaf Alliance

Federal Aid \$\$

State Forestry Programs

**Decision
Support Tools**

SERPASS

Significance of JV's in the context of LCC's?

– In many ways the JV network has forged ahead with respect to . . .

- Conservation partnerships that
 - span state and national lines
 - link managers with researchers
- Conservation planning that
 - sets population goals
 - relates species to habitats
 - attempts to understand the relationship between site scale management actions to population responses at national and international scales

Types of projects that JVs undertake . . . broad applicability funds leveraged

New or Expanded Funding Sources

Outside Funding Sources 2007-2008

Funding Source	Project
AFWA/USFWS Multist. Grants	Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring
	Designing Sustainable Landscapes for Birds in the Eastern U.S.
BDJV/DU/state	Black duck wintering behavior and energetics
SDJV	Atlantic Coast Sea Duck Surveys, Seawatch
U. of Delaware	Brant wintering behavior and energetics
U.S.G.S. Science Support	Optimal Landscape Design
	Bird and Bat Migration on Appalachian Ridges
	Atlantic Coast Sea Level Rise and Impacts on Birds
	Migratory stopover habitat
	Post-breeding use of early successional habitats by forest birds
U.S.G.S. NBII	Atlantic Flyway SWAP Bird Information Database
Doris Duke	Regional Habitat Classification and Mapping, Phase I
NEAFWA	Regional Habitat Classification and Mapping, Phase II
NFWF	Rangewide Longleaf Pine Decision Support Tool
MMS	Seabird surveys and data compilation

Tech activities at "appropriate" spatial scales

- Plan using ecologically-defined units that reflect our best understanding of how birds respond to habitats at broad spatial scales
 - Flyway
 - Atlantic Coast
 - Ecoregional (e.g. Bird Conservation Region)
- Implement at scales that recognize administrative or management responsibilities and local partnerships
 - Regional
 - State
 - Focus Area
 - Site



Its not only overall geography overall, but the scales at which partnerships (JVs) undertake activities – not just planning

. . . but I/M . . .

. . . and of course, Delivery

working within partner emphases/constraints



LCC Core Capacities - Form and Function document

All LCCs will use a robust adaptive management framework and function as units of an integrated national LCC network. Consequently, they will require the same general core capacities in conservation planning and science, including expertise in:

Biological, ecological and physical sciences;

Spatial data acquisition and analysis;

Population, climate and landscape modeling;

Conservation genetics;

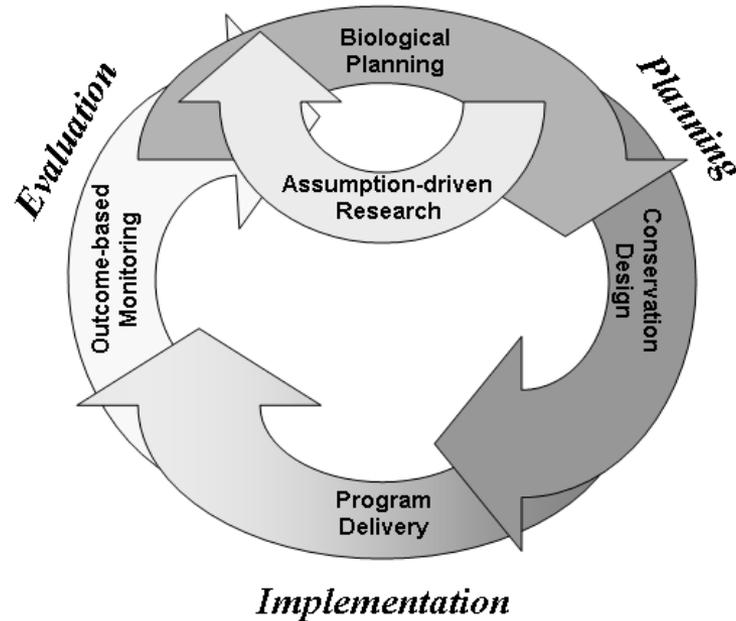
Development of resource inventories, monitoring protocols, and management evaluation protocols;

Web-hosting, database design and management;

Resource planning and conservation design; and

Communications

LCCs vs JV's . . .



An adaptive approach to science-based landscape conservation follows these steps:

- ✓ **Planning;**
- ✓ **Conservation Design**
- ✓ **Conservation Delivery;**
- ✓ **Monitoring and Research**

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HABITAT JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIPS A

<i>Element</i>	Sub Element/Product	TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS	
		Minimal Content-	Comprehensive Content-
ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE	Coordination/Partnerships		
	Management Board		
	Budgeting/Granting/ Administration/ Funding		
	Technical Community		
BIOLOGICAL PLANNING	Coordination/Partnerships		
	Biological Planning Unit (Spatial and Temporal Scales)		
	Priority Species		
	Population Objectives		
	Limiting Factors		
	Species/Habitat Relationships		

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS FOR . . . LCC's????

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Take Home - "Linkages" wrt Functions

Functions and Responsibilities

Core Activities

Same strategic framework for approaching conservation and organizing/prioritizing work efforts

Highly complementary technical roles

Incredible existing capacity

Systems in place that link SCIENCE
with DELIVERY



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- Capacity needs

 - ✓ Technical

 - ✓ Operational



Thoughts on Building Needed Capacity

Evaluate existing capacity to define needed capacity

Capacity growth must "cascade" . . .

New structure does not = new capacity (necessarily)

Re-thinking existing resources and their relationships can provide great gains in capacity

Build capacity based on needs of the whole, avoid "retrofitting" needs of programs/components into an LCC paradigm